

ALL OUR HERBARIA contain specimens from Mr. A. H. Curtiss, and we do not need to call attention to their value as species, nor their completeness of preparation. The successive fascicles, now numbering seven, have each brought many accessions eagerly sought for by botanists. This season Mr. Curtiss will collect such plants of North Florida as are ordered, and will send lists to purchasers for selection. He can be addressed at Jacksonville, Florida.

BREFELD DEVOTES the fifth part of his *Botanische Untersuchungen* to the development of the *Ustilagineæ*. By using nutritive fluids for his cultures he was enabled to obtain far more important results than those of other observers. By this means he found that the sporidia produced by the germinating spores have the behavior of conidia, and that the so-called conjugation in *Tilletia*, which is without sexual significance, does not occur when nutriment is abundant.

AS WE GO to press the death of Dr. Geo. Engelmann is announced, and to western botanists especially it comes like the shock of a family bereavement. So great and so kind, was the general thought in regard to him, and we hope soon to be able to give to our readers a suitable memorial notice.

PROF. EDWARD S. BURGESS, of the Washington High School, has published a "Syllabus of the Courses in Botany and Zoology," which rather surprises one accustomed to the ordinary High School biology. Of course the means of illustration in Washington are unusually good, thanks to the Botanical Gardens and National Museum. But the main point is, that use seems to be made of the materials within reach, which would work a revolution in probably nine-tenths of our schools. But the Botanic Gardens and National Museum are by no means the only things Prof. Burgess uses, but he depends largely upon what every teacher has, the inexhaustible Botanic Garden and Museum of Nature herself. One only needs Nature to teach pupils much natural science, but the trouble is that much of our school natural science is so very unnatural.

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## CURRENT LITERATURE.

*Arctostaphylos*, Adams. Notes on the U. S. Pacific Coast species, from recent observations of living plants, including a new species from Lower California. By C. C. Parry. From proceedings Davenport Acad. Science, vol. iv.

Some twenty-five species of *Arctostaphylos* are recognized by botanists, thirteen of which are found within the limits of this paper. The only one of general distribution is the well-known *A. Uva-ursi*. Five species are exclusively Californian, three of which Dr. Parry characterizes as doubtful, or imperfectly understood. Seven other species extend into Mexico, including the new species *A. oppositifolia*. This species, together with *A. nummularia*, Gray, are placed in a new section, *Micrococcus*, characterized by the fruit with thin pericarp, without mealy pulp, wrinkled at maturity, and the four or five nutlets easily separating. *A. oppositifolia* differs from all other members of the genus in its opposite or ternately-whorled leaves, and is noted for its two-celled nutlets.